

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In accordance with a second aspect of the invention there is provided an apparatus for providing authentication of data communication over a communication link between a client and an agent in accordance with an ordinarily insecure network communication protocol, the protocol comprising a communal string field for an appliance in the data communication, wherein, a string to be applied once, based on a shared seed between the client and the agent, is adapted to be incorporated into the communal string field to be transmitted between the client and the agent for authentication, wherein the once to be applied string is determined by a substantially similar algorithm at both the client and the agent based on the shared seed.--